

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03629 202114Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAB-02 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2000

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 3629

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE

SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS NON-SUBSTANTIVE
AND THERE IS STILL NO DEFINABLE "LINE" VISIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A TELEVISION STORY EVENING OF MAY 19, CHANNEL 4
NEWS DIRECTOR Eleta said from Washington that both
negotiating teams were keeping silent about their
discussions, which he said dealt yesterday with neutrality,
canal entity and civilian employees. He saw in meeting
between Panamanian Ambassador Lewis and National
Security Adviser Brzezinski a reaffirmation of Carter
administration's will to conclude a new treaty. He also
announced that Lewis, accompanied by Ambassador Jorden,
had travelled to Houston to brief President Lakas.
(FBIS/PANAMA PA 200440Y.)

2. ALL GOP-GUIDED ERSA PAPERS EDITORIALIZED ON
NEGOTIATIONS. AFTERNOON "REPUBLICA" MAY 19 SAW
THE APPROACHING END OF A LONG AND DIFFICULT
ROAD, BUT WARNED AGAINST PREMATURE OPTIMISM. MAY 20
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 03629 202114Z

"CRITICA" GLOSS ON TORRIJOS' INSTRUCTIONS TO THE
PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS CONCLUDED, "NOT A STEP BACKWARD".
"MATUTINO", FOR SECOND DAY IN A ROW, CAUTIONED THAT
NEWS REPORTS, SUCH AS RECENT UPI STORY ON CONGRESSIONAL
OPPOSITION TO A TREATY, MUST BE CAREFULLY INTERPRETED.
IT SAID THAT USG WAS IN BEST POSITION TO PUT THE
FACTS BEFORE ITS CONGRESS AND PEOPLE.

3. STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE WAS SCANTY AND INSUBSTANTIAL
WIRE SERVICE ITEMS.

4. "ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" BOTH REPRINTED
MARLISE SIMONS' "WASHINGTON POST" ARTICLE OF
MAY 19 REBUTTING TORRIJOS' DENIAL OF HER EARLIER
STORY. ERSA PAPERS IGNORED IT, BUT SOME RADIO
STATIONS REPORTED ON IT. THERE HAS BEEN NO
MEDIA COMMENT OR REACTION TO HER SECOND STORY
AS YET.

5. "STAR AND HERALD" CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE RELEASE
BY PANCANAL INFORMATION OFFICE RELATING TO TUESDAY'S
INCIDENT OF A PANAMANIAN WOUNDED BY A CANAL ZONE
POLICE OFFICER. "ESTRELLA" PRINTED THIS RELEASE
ON BACK PAGE. IT WAS CARRIED ON US ARMED FORCES
RADIO/TV MAY 19, BUT NOT ON PANAMANIAN BROADCAST
MEDIA THAT WE KNOW OF. ERSA PAPERS TOOK NO NOTICE
OF THIS REALEASE; THEIR COVERAGE AND COMMENT ON
THE SHOOTING INCIDENT DWINDLED TO A FEW ITEMS ON
PAGE 18 OF "CRITICA".

6. COMMENT THERE IS STILL NO DEFINABLE "LINE"
TAKEN BY MEDIA COVERAGE HERE. BUT GOP-GUIDED MEDIA
APPEAR TO BE TRYING NOT TO DO ANYTHING TO PREJUDICE
WHATEVER "LINE" MAY SOONER OR LATER BE DIRECTED
FOR THEM. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 03629 202114Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770180-0913
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770535/aaaabeht.tel
Line Count: 97
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2436221
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - MEDIA COVERAGE SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS NON-SUBSTANTIVE AND THERE IS STILL NO DEFINABLE "LINE" VISIBLE. EN
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, SOPN, PN, US
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Type: TE
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